

CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for providing a reusable software control, comprising:
incorporating the control into an Integrated Development Environment (IDE),
wherein a graphical representation of the control can be interactively manipulated;
exposing services associated with the control and related to programmatically
interacting with a portal; and
wherein the control has a customizable interface.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein the services can include:
a first group of services related to portal tracking; and
a second group of services related to portal personalization.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the interactive manipulation of the control
includes:
graphically connecting the control to other controls to establish flow-of-
control at run-time.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the control includes annotated Java code.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the control can use other controls.
6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
specifying IDE characteristics of the control.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein:
the services related to interacting with a portal can include one or more of:
portal personalization, portal events and portal configuration.
8. A method for providing a reusable software control, comprising:

incorporating the control into an Integrated Development Environment (IDE), wherein a graphical representation of the control can be interactively manipulated by graphically connecting the control to other controls to establish flow-of-control at run-time;

exposing services associated with the control and related to programmatically interacting with a portal; and

wherein the control has a customizable interface.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the services can include:

a first group of services related to portal tracking; and

a second group of services related to portal personalization.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein:

the control includes annotated Java code.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein:

the control can use other controls.

12. The method of claim 8, further comprising:

specifying IDE characteristics of the control.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein:

the services related to interacting with a portal can include one or more of: portal personalization, portal events and portal configuration.

14. A framework for providing a reusable software control, said framework comprising:

an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) operable to incorporate the control, wherein a graphical representation of the control can be interactively manipulated in the IDE;

a set of services associated with the control and related to programmatically interacting with a portal; and

wherein the control has a customizable interface.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the services can include:
 - a first group of services related to portal tracking; and
 - a second group of services related to portal personalization.
16. The system of claim 14 wherein the interactive manipulation of the control includes:
graphically connecting the control to other controls to establish flow-of-control at run-time.
17. The system of claim 14 wherein:
the control includes annotated Java code.
18. The system of claim 14 wherein:
the control can use other controls.
19. The system of claim 14, further comprising:
specifying IDE characteristics of the control.
20. The system of claim 14 wherein:
the services related to interacting with a portal can include one or more of:
portal personalization, portal events and portal configuration.
21. A framework for providing a reusable software control, said framework comprising:
an Integrated Development Environment (IDE) operable to incorporate the control, wherein a graphical representation of the control can be interactively manipulated in the IDE by graphically connecting the control to other controls to establish flow-of-control at run-time;
a set of services associated with the control and related to programmatically interacting with a portal; and
wherein the control has a customizable interface.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the services can include:
 - a first group of services related to portal tracking; and
 - a second group of services related to portal personalization.
23. The system of claim 21 wherein the interactive manipulation of the control includes:

graphically connecting the control to other controls to establish flow-of-control at run-time.
24. The system of claim 21 wherein:

the control includes annotated Java code.
25. The system of claim 21 wherein:

the control can use other controls.
26. The system of claim 21, further comprising:

specifying IDE characteristics of the control.
27. The system of claim 21 wherein:

the services related to interacting with a portal can include one or more of: portal personalization, portal events and portal configuration.
28. A machine readable medium having instructions stored thereon that when executed by a processor cause a system to:

incorporate control into an Integrated Development Environment (IDE), wherein a graphical representation of the control can be interactively manipulated; expose services associated with the control and related to programmatically interacting with a portal; and

wherein the control has a customizable interface.
29. The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein the services can include:
 - a first group of services related to portal tracking; and
 - a second group of services related to portal personalization.

30. The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein the interactive manipulation of the control includes:

graphically connecting the control to other controls to establish flow-of-control at run-time.

31. The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein:
the control includes annotated Java code.

32. The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein:
the control can use other controls.

33. The machine readable medium of claim 28, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the system to:
specify IDE characteristics of the control.

34. The machine readable medium of claim 28 wherein:
the services related to interacting with a portal can include one or more of:
portal personalization, portal events and portal configuration.

35. A computer data signal embodied in a transmission medium, comprising:
a code segment including instructions to incorporate control into an Integrated Development Environment (IDE), wherein a graphical representation of the control can be interactively manipulated;
a code segment including instructions to expose services associated with the control and related to programmatically interacting with a portal; and
wherein the control has a customizable interface.